



# News Release



**Shelby County Health Department**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Shelby County Health Department and Mid-South Hospitals Participating in Full Scale Exercise**

MEMPHIS – The Shelby County Health Department and all surrounding hospitals will participate in a full scale exercise on Wednesday, October 1. The exercise is designed to test the abilities of medical health care systems to respond during an unexpected public health event. This exercise simulates a global influenza pandemic directly affecting a large population of Mid-South residents.

“Exercises utilizing these types of scenarios are very timely given the recent outbreaks of various diseases worldwide,” said Kasia Smith-Alexander, Manager of the SCHD’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program. “Consistently testing our response plans and capabilities allow us to ensure we are prepared to meet the needs of the public and our staff, regardless of the size and scope of the disaster.”

Volunteers from local high schools and members of the Medical Reserve Corps will pose as patients presenting with flu-like symptoms. Volunteers will be transported by bus to hospitals simulating a surge on emergency rooms. During the exercise, hospitals will be testing their capacity to cope with a sudden rush of emergency room patients, their ability to provide a safe and workable environment for current patients and staff while managing with limited communication capabilities and exhausted vital resources. Daily operations will NOT be affected by the hospitals’ participation in this exercise. Participating hospitals include:

- Baptist Collierville
- Baptist DeSoto
- Baptist Memphis
- Baptist Tipton
- Baptist Women’s
- Delta Medical Center
- Lauderdale Community
- LeBonheur Children’s Hospital
- Methodist Fayette
- Methodist Germantown
- Methodist North
- Methodist Olive Branch
- Methodist South
- Methodist University
- Regional One
- St. Francis Bartlett
- St. Francis Park
- The VA

Other community agencies including fire and emergency medical services will be providing additional resources contributing to the success of this exercise.

For more information, please contact Heather Fortner, Risk Communication Coordinator for the Shelby County Health Department, at (901) 270-7179.